



March 12, 2008

GENERAL ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Senator Gayle Slossberg, Co-Chair

Representative Christopher Caruso, Co-Chair

Room 2200, Legislative Office Building

Hartford, CT 06106

Re: **Public Hearing on SB 673: "AN ACT CONCERNING IMPROVED
TELECOMMUTING PROGRAMS FOR THE STATE'S WORKFORCE"**

Senator Slossberg and Representative Caruso:

My name is Lynn Coda-Klein and currently work as an Information Technology Analyst for the Department of Information Technology (DOIT). I have worked for the State of Connecticut for 22 years; 20 of them in Information Technology. Living in Glastonbury, I drive one of the many thousands of cars on the highway making the 36 mile round trip commute into Hartford every day.

I am testifying today in **support** of Senate Bill 673, **"An Act Concerning Improved Telecommuting Programs for the State's Workforce."**

I am the Co-Chair for CSEA/SEIU Local 2001's Legislative Action Committee, and my fellow members and I feel this legislation can begin to bring the State into the 21st century by allowing us to provide 1st class services our citizens deserve.

At a time when the State's workforce is aging and a large percentage will be eligible for retirement in the next 5 to 10 years, we need to find ways to recruit and retain a workforce which will be strong in the future. I believe this is a way to do that. The Governor herself has been asking businesses to implement telecommuting for their employees, here's our chance to take the lead; be forward thinking and set the example for others.

Our members are experiencing problems with sick buildings, especially at the Sigourney Street building that houses the Department of Revenue Services and the Department of Social Services. This bill would provide a solution to those problems once it is enacted statewide.

The Governor's panel on reforming the Department of Transportation (DOT) has said that we need to find ways to reduce congestion on the State's road and highways. Imagine less congestion on the Berlin Turnpike if the employees at the DOT were allowed to telecommute.

In my agency, DOIT, many members have been given laptops in order to support the agency in the event of a disaster. Encryption software and other protections have been installed on these laptops and security measures put in place to ensure

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data security. Being that the technology is available now, why should we have to wait for a catastrophe; why can't these same employees offer that level of support now?

There are other benefits to telecommuting, including flexibility that could be used to create better coverage for information systems. Many employees currently start and leave work as early as possible to avoid the congestion of rush hour. Since those employees are not driving to work, it would reduce the amount of emissions produced. As asthma rates rise in cities, it would be a benefit to the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to raise this issue with your committee.

Lynn Coda-Klein

Information Technology Analyst, CT Department of Information Technology
CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, Legislative Action Committee Co-Chair

cc: Members, Connecticut General Assembly GAE Committee